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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia  
SUBJECT Sulphur Imports and Requirements

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DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. For the year 1953, Czechoslovakia was planning to import a total of 20,000 tons of sulphur with a value of 52, 100,000 crowns (pre-currency reform).  
Of this total it was planned to import:
- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| From Area I (USSR)    | 5,000 tn. with a value of 3,200,000 Kcs.   |
| From Area V (Italy)   | 5,000 tn. with a value of 16,500,000 Kcs.  |
| From Area VII (US \$) | 10,000 tn. with a value of 32,400,000 Kcs. |
|                       | 20,000 tn. 52,100,000 Kcs.                 |

2. Czechoslovakia has been entirely dependent on imports for sulphur supplies. The sulphur imports from the USSR are, for the most part, re-exports of Italian sulphur. The export to Czechoslovakia of sulphur of Soviet origin has met transportation difficulties because the USSR sulphur layers are too distant from Czechoslovakia. For the same reason, it has been impossible to import Chinese sulphur. From Eastern Germany Czechoslovakia imported 5,000 tn. of sulphur in 1950 and 2,000 tn. of sulphur in 1951. This sulphur was obtained in Eastern Germany by regeneration of gas purifying mass. The price

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was US \$ 55.00 per metric ton/franco, German-Czechoslovak border. One thousand tons of sulphur were imported from Poland in 1950. The price was 2,750 crowns per metric ton/franco, Polish-Czechoslovak border. Czechoslovakia imported no sulphur from Poland in 1951 and in 1952, and Czechoslovakia imported no sulphur from Eastern Germany in 1952, because of the increased domestic needs of these countries. The USSR, China, Eastern Germany, and Poland were the only Eastern Bloc countries producing sulphur. The imports into Czechoslovakia of Italian sulphur from Italy have been carried out on a barter basis only. Czechoslovakia delivered mainly coal, charcoal, and propelling gas (Treibgas) to Italy.

3. The quantity of sulphur imported into Czechoslovakia in 1952 was about the same planned for 1953. A total of 17,000 tn. of sulphur was imported in 1951. The increased imports for 1952 and 1953 were because of an increased production of carbon disulphide.
4. The total of imported sulphur for 1953 was planned to cover all the Czechoslovak needs for the year. Out of this total 14,500 tn. were to be allotted to the chemical industry, 3,500 tn. to paper production, 1,500 tn. to rubber goods production, and the remaining 500 tn. to various industries, mainly to agricultural production.
5. The chemical industry was planning to use 14,000 tn. of sulphur for carbon disulphide production and the remaining 500 tn. for production of various items such as dyes, sulphates, sulphides, etc. (Contrary to the practice in Western countries, sulphuric acid was produced almost solely from pyrites in Czechoslovakia and only very rarely from pure sulphur. The same was true in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania.) From the 14,000 tn. of sulphur some 14,000 tn. of carbon disulphide would be produced by the Czechoslovak chemical industry. A quantity of 7,560 tn. of carbon disulphide was planned to be exported in 1953, and it was planned to use all the remaining 6,440 tn. of carbon disulphide for domestic rayon production. In 1951 5,000 tn. of carbon disulphide were exported, while in 1952 the carbon disulphide exports were about the same as for 1953.
6. It was planned to set into operation an installation for regeneration of gas purifying mass in the Stalin Works in Most 5032N-1339E in 1953, and it was planned to obtain 5,000 tn. of sulphur there yearly.

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